

Season's First Musical Comedy Inaugurates Belasco's New Year

Herbert-Blossom Musical Comedy Opens Local Season of Theatrical Productions, Competing With Gertrude Hoffman in Max Reinhardt's Play Without Words.

One by one the local theaters are opening up for the season of 1915-16, a gala production of "The Only Girl" with Victor Herbert, the composer, at the conductor desk, being the inaugural attraction at the Belasco this week. The appearance of Gertrude Hoffman with her much praised vaudeville edition of Max Reinhardt's "Sumurun" at Keith's is being made a special event while the complete scenic outlay of the original Savage production of "Excuse Me" will be utilized by the Poli Players in their presentation of the Pullman car comedy.

Mary Pickford has the Columbia all week in "Esmeralda." The Gayety has Billy Watson and his "Beef Trust," traditional of the best of burlesque. At the Casino Manager Fosse starts his second week with a "surprise" act topping the bill, and the Cosmos promises a bill of unusual merit. In the motion picture houses the attractions promised include a number of first productions here of elaborate feature films.

BELASCO.

For the opening of the season at the Belasco Theater tomorrow evening, "The Only Girl" will be the first of the two successful musical comedies of last season in New York, will be presented by Joe Weber. The book is by Henry Blossom, and the lyrics are by Victor Herbert, who will direct the orchestra on the opening night.

Aside from the score provided by Herbert, the critics found the principal charm of "The Only Girl" to lie in the extremely well executed work of the librettist, who had done something new in giving to theatergoers a comedy that would stand the test had it been produced without music.

The story concerns a young playwright who had become a pronounced woman hater. The playwright has nearly completed the book of a new comic opera, but he lacks a composer. Flooding through the window of his apartment he hears some music coming from the flat above, the theme of which he feels will just suit his new work. Sending for the player he is astonished to find that the composer is a beautiful young girl. Much against his will he finally arranges with her to furnish the music for his new play.

A New York cast will be seen in the production, among the members of which are Edna Munsey, Leona Stevens, Edna Baird, Genevieve Houghton, Regina Richards, Janet McIlwaine, Franklin Farnum, Russell Lennon, Frank Combs, Alfred Fisher, and Tom Burton. There will be a special orchestra and a chorus of pretty girls.

POLI'S.

The Poli Players are to be seen tomorrow in one of the most novel comedy offerings of recent years, Rupert Hughes' farce "Excuse Me," which had its first performance in this city several years ago.

The stage settings for "Excuse Me" are unique, all the action taking place on board a vestibule Pullman train, bound from Chicago to San Francisco. So elaborate and intricate are the stage settings for this play that the Poli management found it advisable to purchase the entire original scenic production from Henry W. Savage.

The story of "Excuse Me" concerns the adventures of a motley group of travelers, including a young army officer and his bride-to-be, a traveling salesman who pours out a tale of woe to every listener; the traveling salesman's wife, who is on her way to Reno with divorce designs; a man-hater and a woman-hater who suddenly fall in love; a thick-headed Englishman, and a ubiquitous Pullman car porter.

A. H. Van Buren will be seen in the role of the army lieutenant, and Miss Rittenhouse will enact the bride, while Mark Kent will have the role of the Pullman car porter.

COLUMBIA.

Of all of the great dramatic successes of Frances Hodgson Burnett, "Esmeralda," is regarded as the most tender and lovable characterization she ever created. As "Esmeralda" in a photograph produced by the famous Playhouse Pictures, Mary Pickford will be seen all next week at the Columbia Theater. Owing to the many requests, the management of the theater has arranged to thus deviate from the usual plan of changing the program for the last half of the week.

The strong attraction for home, "be it ever so humble," which this drama extols, and its impact on the stage, have made it a success on the stage and in the picture. As a photograph, "Esmeralda" is a faithful presentation of the sentiments of the play, in which Mary Pickford, assisted by an unusually strong supporting cast, attains another triumph.

CASINO.

With a "surprise" act to head his bill, Manager Louis J. Fosse, announces for the second week of the season at the Casino Theater an array of vaudeville acts, supplemented by a feature motion picture. The bill is expected to be even better than the opening week's program, which met with wide favor.

As a feature act, second only to the "surprise" act, Manager Fosse has billed Williams and Cady, successors to Rice and Cady, the Dutch comedians, who have a Weber and Fields dialogue this season. Guinness and Gassett appear in a rural comedy that sets away from the slapstick flavor of such offerings.

The European war has made it possible to sign up the famous Spanish Students, a group of musicians who formerly were in high favor in Europe. The bill is rounded out by De Leon and Orma in a six-act comedy, and the motion picture.

GARDEN.

Emily Stevens will be seen at Moore's Garden Theater today, tomorrow, and Tuesday in the Metro production, "The Soul of a Woman," by Anthony P. Kelly, an allegorical study of unusual power. "The Soul of a Woman" marks Miss Stevens' second appearance before the camera.

Wednesday and Thursday Clifton Crawford, the musical comedy star, will make his local screen debut in "The Gallipoli," adapted from the story by Richard Harding Davis. In "The Gallipoli," an adventurous American war correspondent becomes involved in all sorts of difficulties with foreign belligerents.

The remainder of the week Clara Williams and Howard Hickman will be seen in a new Mutual Master Picture, "The Man From Oregon."

B. F. KEITH'S

One of Keith vaudeville's greatest stars, Gertrude Hoffman, in "Sumurun," the world-famous wordless play, with music, will be the chief offering in a number of special features comprising a bill of the usual length at the B. F. Keith Theater this week. "Sumurun" was written by Frederick Freese from "The Arabian Nights," and originally staged by Max Reinhardt, the master of stagecraft.

It made a sensation in Berlin, Paris, London, and New York. Miss Hoffman's version in eight scenes is said to be even more satisfactory than the original. It was staged by Richard Ordynski, a disciple and associate of Reinhardt. Miss Hoffman is cast as "The Beautiful Slave of Fatai Enchantment," and Mr. Ordynski acts the unhappy hunchback.

A large cast of actors and actresses, dancing girls, and others are employed in the action. To these are added an augmented symphony orchestra under the direction of Max Hoffman, assisted by C. Frederick Clark, of the local corps. Music by Victor Holland accompanies the story.

Novelty will be found in the remaining numbers of the bill, which includes "Wilson Mizner's Comedy," "Ships That Pass the Night," "Max Melville's Comedy," "Chauncey Monroe and Company in 'A Business Proposal,'" "The Muses Lighter," and Newton Alexander, Bina and Bert, and the "Pathe weekly news pictorial."

GAYETY.

"Beef Trust Billy" Watson and his "Big Girls" show are billed for appearance at the Gayety Theater commencing with a matinee tomorrow afternoon, with a group of well-known comedians and a strong supporting cast. Such well-known people as Frank Brannard, Jean Leighton, Violet Pearl, Kathryn Peppin, Annette Walker, Frank LaFleur, Grace Sachs, Billy Meehan, and other stars of the burlesque stage will be among those present.

The attraction also boasts of a large and varied bill, which will include a display of a wealth of costumes and add materially to the success of the performance by their singing and dancing.

The vehicles used are new editions of "Kavanaugh's Alley" and "The Bashful Venus," and each is filled with clean comedy interspersed with song numbers, of the up-to-date type, and dancing ensembles. A number of vaudeville acts have been arranged, the most prominent being the society dance, presented by Billy Meehan and Violet Pearl.

COSMOS.

"The Frolics of 1915," popular vaudeville's "Follies," will be presented by a sextet of entertainers as a revue of song and dancing features, beautifully costumed at the Cosmos this week. The members of the company are new to the Washington stage, and the bill is expected to be a bright and snappy entertainment.

The five Braganzas will be seen, also for the first time, in "The Book of the Dead," which depicts the trials of the great Egyptian pharaohs. The bill also includes Brooks and Harris, a comedy team; Nick Castana and Harry Nelson, an amusing pair; Tenney and Gould, with a musical comedy act; and Twisto, a flexible prodigy.

The added attractions will include the "Pathe" news, a series of photoplay comedies that are changed daily. A new bill will be presented with the Thursday matinee.

CRANDALL'S.

Betty Nansen, who has been seen in several William Fox successes, appears at Crandall's Theater today for a four days' engagement, continuing to Wednesday, in "The Song of Hate," which is based upon Victorien Sardou's "La Tosca."

Miss Nansen met Sardou in Paris during the time that he was writing this drama, in which Sarah Bernhardt created the leading role. This screen production, "The Song of Hate," is a modern military story, and under a special permit from the Government scenes were made at the gun-proving grounds at Sandy Hook reservation. The supporting cast will include Dorothy Bernard, the popular Washington actress.

Thursday and Friday Holbrook Blinn makes his second appearance in motion picture form in "The Ivory Ship," by Frederic Arnold Kummer. Alma Belwin, a newcomer in pictures, is the leading woman. Saturday Nat Goodwin will be shown in "Business Is Business," produced under the personal direction of Hobart Bosworth.

STRAND

At Moore's Strand Theater today, tomorrow and Tuesday Paul McAllister, Paula Mannoff, Frank Sheridan and Anne Meredith will be seen in "The Money Master," adapted from the play, "The Battle," by Cleveland Moffet and Wilton Lackaye. The play depicts a mighty conflict between capital and labor. Mr. McAllister is very popular in Washington by reason of his frequent appearances with local stock companies. Raymond Hitchcock will be presented from Monday to Friday in "The Ringed Rhinoceros." Mr. Hitchcock has a role fitting his funmaking propensities, as a care free gentleman who looks too long upon the wine while it is hot, with the result that he finds himself the sad possessor of an "imaginative menagerie."

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STARS AT CAPITAL THEATERS THIS WEEK



TODAY'S PROGRAM

Two concerts will be given, 8:15 p. m., at the B. F. Keith Theater to-day, and the bill will present David Blipham and all the other special features of the current week's program.

George Nash in the World Film Corporation's production of "The Cotton King," and "The Diamond from the Sky," Rex McCardell's \$10,000 prize photoplay, lead the film features on the Poli program today, beginning at 3 p. m.

Manager Harry Jarboe, of the Gayety Theater, announces that the performance of "The Diamond from the Sky" will be given by the old Lyceum stock company, with William Faversham, Viola Allen, Ida Conquest, James Lee Finney, E. Y. Backus and others in the cast.

Stage Manager Thompson, of the B. F. Keith Theater, made a special trip to New York Wednesday to inspect the setting of "Sumurun" at the B. F. Keith Theater. The Hoffman spectacle could be handled in the same way here that it has been at the Palace Theater.

Swan and Bamford, who appear at the Gayety this week have been in partnership for many years—longer than any other vaudeville team on the stage except McIntyre and Heath.

Victor Herbert will direct the orchestra tomorrow night at the inauguration of the Belasco's season with his opera, "The Only Girl."

Franklin Farnum, who has one of the leading roles in "The Only Girl" at the Belasco this week, was for a number of years a member of the Charles Frohman force.

Russell Fillmore and Peggy Cameron, who were not in the Poli Players cast here during the season of the Columbia Musical Stock Company and very much liked, is the prima donna of "The Only Girl" at the Belasco this week.

Besides Sophie Bernard and Lou Anger the cast of the two-act musical sketch, "Safety First," contains a number of people well known to musical comedy and vaudeville, who were selected by Ned Wayburn, the producer of the piece, because of their special fitness for their parts.

A feature at the Casino which has attracted wide attention is the baby-choking routine that will do wonders for the children to the theater may leave them with the malds who will take the best of care of them.

Harry Askin, the Chicago musical comedy singer, has been chosen by Charles Dillingham as manager for the Hippodrome in New York.

The Poli Players have secured from David Belasco permission to produce "The Grand Army Man" during Grand Army week. This is the first time the David Warfield success has ever been performed in stock. Mark Kent will be seen in the David Warfield part. A. H. Van Buren will play the part originated by William Elliott.

Bonnie Glass, who is to be one of the headliners of the Keith's bill next week, is one of the few dancers New York has.

Sheldon's New Play.

Edward Sheldon's new play, "The Lonely Heart," is to be produced shortly by John Barrymore in the leading role.

To Try Municipal Opera.

New York proposes to start a season of municipal opera in the stadium at the City College before the season of warm weather has passed.

TODAY'S BEAUTY HELPS

Nothing excites more criticism than a woman with her face all daubed with face powder in her desire to hide a faulty or an aging skin. Instead of using powder, which clogs and enlarges the pores, it is far better to use a good face lotion that will improve and permanently benefit the skin. By dissolving four ounces of alumina in a half pint of hot water you can make an inexpensive lotion that will do wonders as a skin whitener and complexion beautifier. It removes all shininess, sallowness and roughness, and gives the skin a smooth, velvety tone, while it does not rub off flaky like powder, nor does it show on the skin.

By washing the hair with a teaspoonful of canthox dissolved in a cup of hot water, afterward rinsing thoroughly with clear water, one finds that it dries quickly and evenly, is unstreaked, bright, soft, and very fluffy, so fluffy, in fact, that it looks more abundant than it is and so soft that arranging it becomes a pleasure. This simple, inexpensive shampoo cleanses the hair and scalp thoroughly of all dandruff and dirt, and leaves a clean, wholesome feeling. All scalp irritation will disappear, and the hair will be brighter and glossier than ever before.

HEARD IN THE FOYERS

Hooker, Acheson and Monte Bell, Washingtonians who have made a name on the stage in other cities, as well as here, are to be seen this week with the Poli Players in "Excuse Me."

Townsend Walsh, one of the best known of the theatrical advance men, and an authority on theatrical affairs, has just finished and published a biography of Dion Boucicault.

L. G. Grossman is reported to have a lease for the Lyceum Theater, Penna. sylvania avenue, near Eleventh street northwest, which he will open as a burlesque house in the near future. Prices will be 10, 20 and 30 cents. Two years ago Mr. Grossman operated the Lyceum as a vaudeville house for a time.

Harry Corson Clarke, who is globe trotting more or less dramatic success these days, intends to play an engagement in the British trenches if Lord Kitchener and English war office authorities will grant him the necessary permission.

Irene Halsman, who was seen here last season in the leading role in "Kitty McKay," has been engaged to play the production role with William Gillette in "Secret Service."

Helena Morrill, the young soprano who was heard here last spring with the Aborn Opera Company, has been engaged as the stage singer, Eleanor Painter in "The Lilac Domino."

Vesta Tilley, the famous English musical artist, who has been at work for practically two generations of theatergoers and never seems to lose a bit of her sparkle, may return to the stage for a tour of this country in vaudeville, according to Walter Kingsley, the Keith prognosticator.

Gertrude Hoffman is said to contemplate the production of Lord Byron's "Don Juan" some time in the future, starting herself in the part of Haidee, the dancer.

Billy Watson, the burlesque comedian who brings his show to the Gayety this week, not only calls his company "beef trust," but instead of dwelling upon the beauty and charms of his country in his advertising, states that the chorus represents an aggregate weight of three tons, there being twenty-six stalwart young women averaging 150 to 200 pounds each.

Regina Richards, who has made many friends in Washington, is a member of the "The Only Girl" company which opens the season at the Belasco tomorrow night.

"Under the Red Robe," the Stanley Weisman story dramatized by Edward E. Rose, which is to be produced by the Poli Players next week, was first presented by the old Lyceum stock company, with William Faversham, Viola Allen, Ida Conquest, James Lee Finney, E. Y. Backus and others in the cast.

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